

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/049,277
Attorney Docket Q68473
PCT/AU00/00964

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action the Abstract of Disclosure was objected to as containing improper phraseology. The Abstract of the Disclosure as presented in the Preliminary Amendment of February 11, 2002 has been cancelled and a new Abstract of the Disclosure has been submitted on a separate unnumbered sheet.

The specification has been amended on Page 12, line 20 to change "mean, and counter registers peak are cleared" to read --mean, peak and counter registers are cleared--. It is clear from steps 120, 122 and 124 in the same sentence and in Figure 10 that this correction is fully supported.

The proposed change in Figure 5 with respect to the last two legends is believed to be solely supported from Figure 10. The change to the first legend is believed to be obvious from step 126 and the change to the last legend is supported by step 138 in Figure 10. Therefore, the changes do not involve any new matter whatsoever.

In the last Office Action Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossler et al. (US Patent 3,792,350) in view of Rider et al. (US Patent 5,361,029). Claims 2-8 and 10 were indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-10 inclusive are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In rejecting Claims 1 and 9 the Examiner admitted that the patent to Bossler did not expressly disclose “means for rectifying a first component of the earth leakage signal corresponding to one said frequency component of said applied signal;

multiplying the rectified first component of the earth leakage signal with a second component of the earth leakage signal corresponding to another frequency component of the applied signal;

from the result of the multiplication determining the direction from the device to the fault”.

The Examiner has taken the position that these features are well known in the art and would have been obvious in view of the teachings of Rider. More specifically it was stated in the last Office Action that Rider teaches “from the result of the modification determining the direction from the device to the fault” and refers to column 24, lines 65-68 of Rider.

However, the wording of Rider at this particular passage found on column 24, lines 65-68 reads as follows “this result is then multiplied by a coefficient equal to the distance between the axes of antennas 501 and 502. Thus, the distance to the underground object is derived.”

While this indicates that a distance is derived there is absolutely no indication whatsoever that any directional information is derived. In fact, from considering Rider as a whole, there is no disclosure of derivation of directional information. The primary advantage of the present invention over the teachings of Bossler and Rider is that it does provide directional information. Since neither of these references disclose directional information it is submitted that the rejection

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of Claims 1 and 9 would not be the least bit obvious in view of the teachings of Bossler and Rider. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1 and 9 along with allowable Claims 2-8 and 10 be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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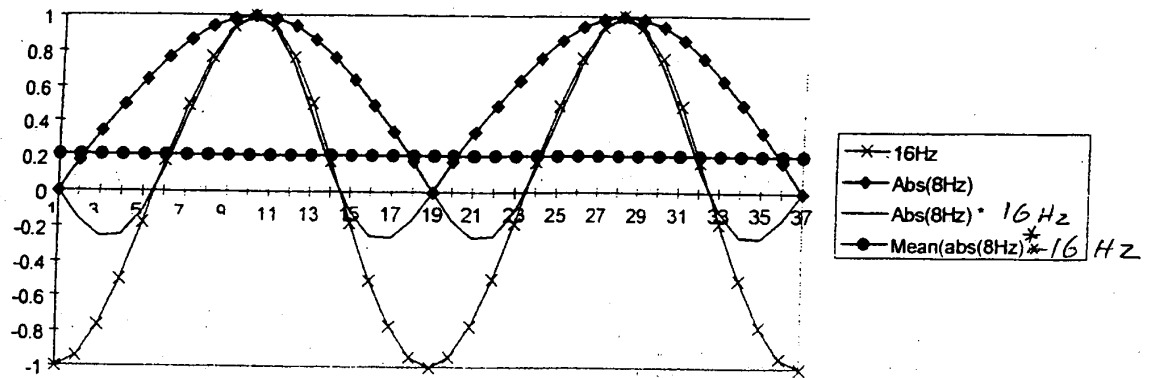
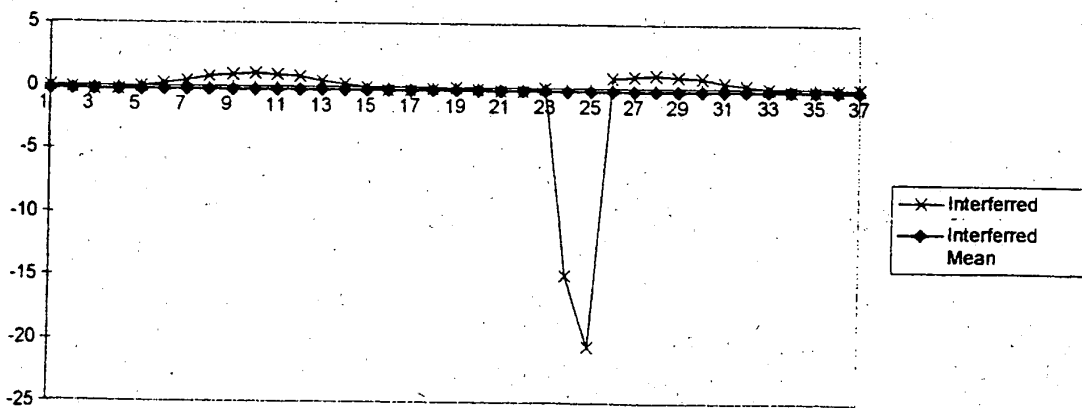
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**FIGURE 5****FIGURE 6**